

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of
Enzo Ingriselli et al
Serial No.: 10/713,799
Filed: November 13, 2003
Title: Compact Reactant Gas Plumbing
Serving Dual Identical Fuel Cell Stacks

Examiner: Melissa Thompson
Art Unit: 1746
Docket No.: C-3146

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Robin Jay Guthrie declares that:

1. He resides at 7 Lexington Road, East Hartford, CT.
2. He has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.S. in Management, and has been working in the field of fuel cells and related arts for over 32 years, and is currently engaged in that field on behalf of UTC Fuel Cells, LLC, South Windsor, CT.
3. He is a named inventor in eleven fuel cell patents, three of which relate to reactant manifolds.
4. He has reviewed the claimed matter in the above-identified application and the disclosure of Sato et al U.S. publication 2005/0106446.
5. Claim 1 requires (lines 2 and 3) that each stack have a manifold with reactant gas inlets and outlets (lines 8-9) accessible from either of two opposite faces (see Fig. 2 herein). There is only one, single element of Sato that is so accessible: the connection block 80 (Fig. 1 of Sato).

6. Claim 1 also requires (lines 13-16) connections between a first face of one manifold and a second face of another; there are none such in Sato.

7. Claim 1 further requires (lines 19-22) seals to close off the faces that are not interconnected by plumbing; there are none such in Sato.

8. Anyone of ordinary skill in the fuel cell arts would understand that the pipes in Sato are not flexible, but bent by a pipe bending tool, or the like, as is common.

9. All statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Robin Jay Guthrie
Robin Jay Guthrie

Nov. 30, 2006
Date